

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: **AUG 2 1995**

From: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management (95A)

Subj: Class Deviation from Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation (VAAR)

To: Deputy Secretary (001)
THRU: Assistant Secretary for Management (004) *MD*

1. In accordance with VAAR 801.404, Class deviations, your approval is requested to deviate from VAAR 801.690, VA Contracting Officer Certification Program (COCP). This request is made to streamline the acquisition process and implement changes made by Public Law 103-355, the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (FASA).

2. Specifically, this deviation is requested to increase the Basic and Intermediate COCP levels of authority as indicated below:

a. Basic. Actions using micro-purchase and simplified acquisition procedures in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation Part 13, Simplified Acquisition Procedures, or the maximum order limitation for orders placed against established contracts.

b. Intermediate. Expenditures at or below \$500,000 for negotiated acquisitions and \$1.5 million for sealed bids.

3. FASA defines the Simplified Acquisition Threshold as \$100,000 and outlines requirements for Government electronic commerce capabilities. A contracting activity will only be allowed to use simplified acquisition procedures for actions estimated at or below \$50,000 unless the activity has been certified as having Interim Federal Acquisition Computer Network capability. Additionally, FASA increased the requirement for the submission of certified cost and pricing data from \$100,000 to \$500,000 for certain negotiated acquisitions.

4. This deviation, if approved, will allow Heads of Contracting Activities to increase Basic levels of authority delegated to purchasing agents currently making small purchases (procurements of \$25,000 or less). It will also allow procurement officials who are delegated Intermediate level authority to award higher dollar value contracts in keeping with the decreased complexity of procurements envisioned by FASA (e.g., the increased threshold for submission of certified cost or pricing data). These increases will result in contract specialists devoting additional time to contract administration issues while high value simplified acquisitions are made by purchasing agents. Additionally, VA's procurement officials who are delegated Senior level authority will be relieved of awarding and managing routine contracts and allowed to concentrate on highly technical acquisitions.

5. Your favorable consideration of this request will be appreciated.

Gary J. Krump
Gary J. Krump

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED:

Hershel W. Gober

Hershel W. Gober
Deputy Secretary

AUG 11 1995

Date